GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5497
ANSWERED ON:02.05.2000
BLOOD DONORS TO HEPATITIS C
JAI PRAKASH

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to make it mandatory for banks and hospitals to screen blood donors for hepatitis `C` virus;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)

(SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government is proposing to start mandatory testing for Hepatitis `C` virus in all blood banks at the earliest.

(c) The following steps are being taken by the Government to start mandatory testing for Hepatitis `C`:-

i) Technical specifications for the proposed HIV/ELISA kits has been drawn up by a Technical Committtee.

ii) The procurement process for Hepatitis `C`/Elisa test kits has been started.

iii) Necessary changes to Drugs and Cosmetics Rules is being made so that Hepatitis `C` testing becomes a statutory requirement.

iv) Nationwide training programme for training two functionaries from each of the 815 blood banks supported by NACO has started.

(d) Does not arise.